

Message Text

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43

ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 IGA-02

/016 W

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R 231621Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

DEA HQS WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 2904

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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DEA HQS FOR EOI, EOIL, EOIS, SECSTATE FOR S/NM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, VE

SUBJ: OPERATION FUNNEL, GFZB-75-8029

1. ON 4/22/76 COLONEL JAMES F. RUSSELL, THE PROVOST MARSHALL OF THE U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND IN THE CANAL ZONE, VISITED THE CRO IN ORDER TO DISCUSS SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTERESTS BETWEEN DEA AND THE MILITARY. DURING THE MEETING WITH THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, THE SUBJECT OF DOG TRAINING WAS RAISED IN RELATION TO FUTURE INTERDICTION EFFORTS IN OPERATION FUNNEL.

2. COL RUSSELL VOLUNTEERED THE ASSISTANCE OF HIS OFFICE IN THIS ENDEAVOR. AS AN EXAMPLE, COL. RUSSELL SUGGESTED THAT A PILOT PROGRAM FOR 12 DOGS COULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR A COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$70,000 WITH AN ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COST OF \$12,000 (\$1,000 PER DOG) TO TRAIN DOGS FOR COCAINE DETECTION. OFFICERS AND DOGS FROM PERU, COLOMBIA, AND ECUADOR COULD BE SENT TO THE CANAL ZONE FOR TRAINING AND THEN WOULD RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY TO UTILIZE THE DOGS FOR LONG RANGE

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INTERDICTION EFFORTS.

3. IN VISUALIZING THE ACTUAL INTERDICTION EFFORTS FOR OPERATION FUNNEL AND SUBSEQUENT TO A RECENT ON-THE-SCENE VISIT BY DEA REGIONAL AND HQS PERSONNEL--THE ACTUAL SEARHING OF THOUSANDS OF VEHICLES AND TRCUKS MAY BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE DURING THE 90 DAYS OF THE OPERATION. INSTEAD REGION 18 BELIEVES THAT THE USE OF DOGS BY THE INTERDICTION TEAMS WILL NOT ONLY INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EACH TEAM BUT INSURE GREATER SUCCESS OF THE OVERALL PROJECT. VIRTUALLY EVERY VEHICLE COULD BE SEARCHED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DOGS THEREFORE INSURING A GREATER NUMBER OF SEIZURES OF COCA PASTE AND/OR COCAINE HCI. THE DOG PROGRAM WOULD ALSO HAVE A LASTING EFFECT ON THE THREE COUNTRIES AND WOULD ASSIST THE POLICE IN OTHER AREAS OF DRUG DETECTION SUCH AS AT AIRPORTS, DOCKS, AND LOCATIONS OF ILLICIT CULTIVATION OR PROCESSING OF COCAINE PRODUCTS. DOGS IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN SUED EFFECTIVELY FOR THE DETECTION OF MARIJUANA AND CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY UTILIZED IN THIS OPERATION AS WELL.

4. IT IS REQUESTED THAT BOTH DEA HQS AND S/NM COMMENT ON THIS PROPOSAL AND A DETERMINATION REACHED ON THE POSSIBLE FUNDING OF THIS PROGRAM THROUGH THE USE OF CCINC FUNDS. THE CRO WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THE VALUE OF THIS PROGRAM AND ITS OVERALL EFFECT AND IMPACT ON OPERATION FUNNEL.

5. BETWEEN MAY 3 AND 5, 1976, ECUADOR IS HOSTING A TRI-COUNTRY MEETING FOR PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN OPERATION FUNNEL. IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO DISCUSS THE DOG DETECTION TECHNIQUES WITH THE THREE COUNTRIES DURING THE MAY MEETING. IT IS REQUESTED THAT DEA AND S/NM MAKE A DETERMINATION ON THIS SUBJECT PRIOR TO THE MEETING. DECONTROL PERMISSIBLE UPON RECEIPT. BACHRACH.
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